

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY



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The environmental issues that are so hotly debated today, and which understandably fascinate the younger generations, have inspired a necessary and timely debate on a topic of capital interest.

This heightened sensitivity to environmental protection, starting with the fight against climate change, is certainly a positive fact, which should not, however, be approached on the wave of emotionalism, suggesting summary solutions that are easy to implement. On the contrary, the challenges ahead are full of complexities of which we need to be well aware.

Even the concept of sustainability itself is composite, as it must take into account three dimensions: the environmental certainly, but also the social and economic. Without combining these three elements, the choices made are unbalanced and risk leading to even counter-productive results.

The chemical industry is familiar with the sustainability formula and operates with the aim of successfully pursuing the ecologi-

cal transition, without sacrificing welfare. With our solid scientific and managerial skills, we can develop appropriate technological solutions to overcome the current limits of development, including for all downstream supply chains, optimising processes and making ever better use of resources, minimising the use of the most valuable ones, reusing or replacing them, and also valorising waste.

Moving beyond old, now unfounded stereotypes, we can safely say that chemistry has long been a leader in environmental sustainability. Our Green Deal started many years ago, so much so that our companies are already on track to meet the European Union's 2030 climate change targets and, in the last 30 years, have reduced greenhouse gases by 54% and improved energy efficiency by more than 55%. Chemistry also plays a virtuous role with regard to downstream supply chains: every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emitted for chemical production avoids, in fact, the emission of about 3 tonnes by customer sectors or end users.

In order to understand such a significant commitment to sustainability, however, a complex language is needed, of which an environmental assessment is certainly a concrete representation: that of the Saviola Group which, with seriousness and transparency, also tells this year its activity inspired by sustainable development is a valuable testimony. This is a path that I hope can be taken by an increasing number of companies, so that it can be shown that the entire production world is actually doing its part.

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